

Melissa Weipert

From: Brittany Cicchini <cicchini13@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 5:56 PM
To: Melissa Weipert
Subject: Testimony in support of HB 4584

Hello, my name is Brittany Cicchini. I was 19 years old when I got pregnant with Chase in 2006. His father and I are high school sweethearts and have been together since we were 15 years old. When we got pregnant we were scared, surprised and excited. We had no idea what was in store for our future. I was not taking any kind of prenatal vitamins or folic acid and had just stop taking birth control because it had all kinds of side effects. I had got into see my doctor at about 8 weeks to confirm the pregnancy and to see what was next. The doctor put me on prenatal vitamins and I had scheduled my next appointment at 12 weeks. That appointment I had an ultrasound and bloodwork done. Little did I know what the blood was tested for. But about a week later my doctor called and told me that I had high levels of AFP which could indicate a child with a neural tube defect. It was like she was speaking a different language to me, I had no idea what she was talking about and she didn't give me much information after it, she asked me to come in to redo the blood test. And the results were normal the next time, she told me not to worry so i didn't. Weeks later when I was 20 weeks pregnant we went in to get my ultrasound to determine the sex of my baby. The day started like any other day I didn't have a worry in the world i hadn't gave neural tube defects anymore thought, I was just excited to find out the sex of my baby. The tech came in and started the ultrasound about 10 minutes in she excused herself and a doctor came in and finished. I was so confused and scared. She asked if we knew what Spinabifida was and we said no. I had never even heard that word before. She then asked if she could do a vaginal ultrasound to get better 3D picture and i said yes. We then went into a small office with a whiteboard where the doctor tired to explain Spinabifida to us by drawing on the board. She then set us up with a multidisciplinary appointment that had about 8 different medical professionals and a social worker. The doctors went on to tell me about how the future would be... they told me i would not be able to finish college, or work or that my child would most likely not walk, that my child would have hydrocephalus which could cause mental retardation, they said our child would have a hard life i did not want to believe what they were telling me. This was my baby who i had bonded with for the last 4 months. After all of that was said the doctors then gave me my options they said I could go to term and give the baby up for adoption they said I could keep the baby and live this hard life then they said I could terminate the baby which would probably be my best option for me they said I was so young I could try for more children. This information broke our hearts our dreams of a running little boy, playing little leauge baseball, basketball, jumping on a trampoline were over. The doctors pushed us toward termination, which put me in a very emotional dark place. What hurt even more was that some of my family agreed. A family member even took it upon them self to set up an appointment for me a an abortion clinic. When i went to the genetic counsler they told me the same information about termination. I was so surprised, this is what people thought of Spinabifida, they just wanted to get rid of all the babies with spibabifida. At end of it all there was never a doubt in a mind that I wanted Chase no matter how he came into this world.

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